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REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Basichas for the analysis contained in the Examination Report dated February 2, 2006.

Claims 1-11 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Laveau '714. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

Laveau '714 relates to a gas mixing apparatus having three gas inlets 2, 3 and 4. Inlet 2 receives gas A, inlet 4 receives gas B, and inlet 3 receives feedback from the end mixture A+B. Referring now to independent claims 1 and 8, the presently claimed invention does not involve a feedback loop as with Laveau '714. Instead, the inlet 32 supplies pressurized fuel gas and the inlet 34 supplies low pressure fuel gas to the burner fuel mixer head 10.

In addition, according to Laveau '714's apparatus, the gas A from inlet 2 and the gas mixture A+B from inlet 3 are mixed with one another in passage 21. The pressure of the gases being mixed determines the size of the passage 21 where the gases are mixed. The presently claimed invention, on the other hand, claims a mixer head where the "pressurized flow of pressurized fuel gas through the venturi draws low pressure fuel gas from the fuel mixing chamber of the secondary housing through the mixed fuel gas inlet into the fuel/air mixing chamber of the primary housing".

Thus, it is readily apparent that Laveau '714 teaches away from what is specifically claimed by the Applicant in the presently pending claims. Laveau '714 does not in any way teach, suggest or disclose the venturi effect nor, it is respectfully submitted, would it be possible to incorporate a venturi effect into the disclosed apparatus of Laveau '714. For example, with respect to passage 21, the introduction of a pressurized gas may even act to purge the passage 21 of the gas that it is intended to mix with.

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In addition, Laveau '714's apparatus is designed to provide a precisely metered mixture such that the pressure of A+B must be monitored and adjusted. On the other hand, the presently claimed invention recites a device that mixes a high pressure and a low pressure gas by exploiting the venturi effect. The mixture is not intended to be precisely metered as with Laveau '714.

With respect to the dependent claims, since claims 2 through 7 depend from claim 1 and since claims 9 through 11 depend from claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that Laveau '714 also fails to in any way anticipate those dependent claims for at least the same reasons discussed above. In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection of the pending claims in view of Laveau '714 should be withdrawn at this time.

If any amendment to this application or the claims is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Laveau '714 reference, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

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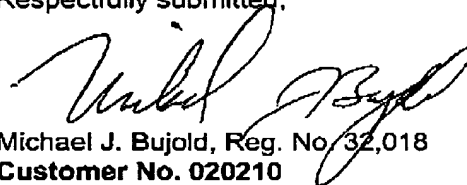
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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